

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03451 132153Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25

DRC-01 SCCT-02 /123 W

----- 004860

R 132111Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6439

INFO DIA DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJ: CARLOS MUGICA ASSASSINATED

1. SUMMARY: WELL KNOWN THIRD WORLD PRIEST, FATHER CARLOS MUGICA, WAS MACHINE GUNNED TO DEATH BY UNKNOWN ASSASSINS ON MAY 11. MUGICA COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY LEFTWING OR RIGHTWING PERONISTS BUT THE LATTER IS MORE LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. FATHER CARLOS MUGICA WAS MACHINE GUNNED TO DEATH BY UNKNOWN ASSASSINS ON MAY 11 IN A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB AFTER LEAVING A CHURCH WHERE HE HAD JUST SAID MASS. MUGICA WAS WELL KNOWN FOR BEING ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE THIRD WORLD PRIESTS, A GROUP OF ACTIVIST PRIESTS WHO CONCENTRATED THEIR EFFORTS IN ORGANIZING POOR PEOPLE IN THE SLUMS AND TRYING TO HELP THEM IMPROVE THEIR LOT.

3. MUGICA WAS VERY OUTSPOKEN IN HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS AND IN RECENT YEARS HAD BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF PERONISM. HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS DEFENSE OF ANOTHER PRIEST INVOLVED IN THE ARAMBURU ASSASSINATION AND SRMONS SUCH AS THE ONE IN WHICH

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03451 132153Z

HE COMPARED EVA PERON TO THE VIRGIN MARY.

4. HE FOR A TIME HELD A POSITION IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE DURING THE CAMPORA GOVERNMENT BU RESIGNED BLASTING LOPEZ REGA AND THE MINISTRY FOR NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR THE POOR IN THE WAY OF HOUSING AND OTHER BENEFITS.

5. COMMENT: MUGICA WAS MOST LIKELY A PERONIST BEDAUSE HE SAW IT AS A MEANS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF THE POOR. HE RECENTLY ISSUED A DOCUMENT ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER PRIESTS WHICH CHIDED THE MONTONEROS INDIRECTLY AND URGED THE LEFTIST YOUTH TO STAY WITHIN THE MOVEMENT AND RESPECT PERONS LEADERSHIP. FOR THIS REASONS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FAR LEFT ELEMENTS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING LEFTIST PERONISTS, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH - THOUGH SOME OF THESE GROUPS HAVE ALREADY DENIED IT. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE RIGHT IS RESPONSIBLE, HOWEVER, GIVEN MUGICAS FALLING OUT WITH LOPEZ REGA AND THE FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS ATTMEPTS ON HIS LIFE. DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTY INVOLVED, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO SEE SOME OF MUGICAS FOLLOWERS MAKE ATTEMPTS AT REPRISALS. AT THIS MOMENT IT APPERARS THAT MUGICAS DEATH WILL BE ADDED TO THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUCCESSION OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND UNSOLVED MURDERS IN ARGENTINA. HILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, NONALIGNED NATIONS, POVERTY, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, EXTREMISTS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CARLOS MUGICA ASSASSINATED  
**TAGS:** PINS, AR, (MUGICA, CARLOS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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